

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 30, 60, 63, 68, and 69, and rejected claims 1-29, 31-59, 61, 62, and 64-67 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,798,753 to Doganata et al. ("*Doganata*") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0208541 to Musa ("*Musa*").

I. Claims 30, 60, 63, 68, and 69

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 30, 60, 63, 68, and 69.

II. The Rejection of Claims 1-29, 31-59, 61, 62, and 64-67 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-29, 31-59, 61, 62, and 64-67 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established with respect to these claims.

A. Claims 1-16, 31-45, and 61

Claim 1, for example, recites a method for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users, comprising "receiving a communication from one of the conference users to record a message for play back to the initiating user" (emphasis added).

Doganata discloses a method and system for providing automatic scheduling and establishment of telephone conferences over a network (*Doganata*, abstract).

Doganata further discloses automatically contacting participants in the conference call using email messages (*Doganata*, col. 5, lines 25-28). However, *Doganata* does not disclose or suggest "receiving a communication from one of the conference users to record a message for play back to the initiating user," as recited by independent claim 1.

Musa fails to cure the deficiencies of *Doganata*. *Musa* discloses real time wireless collaboration conferencing using handheld PDA's (*Musa*, abstract). *Musa* also discloses protocol messages between the handheld PDA's (*Musa*, ¶ 33). However, *Musa* does not disclose or suggest "receiving a communication from one of the conference users to record a message for play back to the initiating user," as recited by independent claim 1.

Applicants note that these recitations were incorporated into independent claim 1 from dependent claim 12. In rejecting claim 12, the Final Office Action does not address this recitation of claim 12 (Final Office Action at pages 6 and 7), and therefore does not allege that the cited art teaches or suggests "receiving a communication from one of the conference users to record a message for play back to the initiating user," as recited by independent claim 1.

Independent claims 31 and 61, though of different scope from claim 1, recite features similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 1. Claims 31 and 61 are therefore allowable for reasons similar to those presented above with regard to claim 1.

Claims 2-16 and 32-45 depend from one of the independent claims, and the dependent claims are therefore allowable at least due to their dependence from allowable base claims.

B. Claims 17-29, 47-59, 62, and 64-67

Claim 17, for example, recites a method for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users, comprising "receiving at least one response from the conference users, the at least one response including an alternate contact telephone number" (emphasis added).

As discussed, *Doganata* discloses a method and system for providing automatic scheduling and establishment of telephone conferences over a network (*Doganata*, abstract), and automatically contacting participants in the conference call using email messages (*Doganata*, col. 5, lines 25-28). However, *Doganata* does not disclose or suggest "receiving at least one response from the conference users, the at least one response including an alternate contact telephone number" as recited by independent claim 17 (emphasis added).

Musa fails to cure the deficiencies of *Doganata*. As discussed, *Musa* discloses real time wireless collaboration conferencing using handheld PDA's (*Musa*, abstract). *Musa* also discloses protocol messages between the handheld PDA's (*Musa*, ¶ 33). However, *Musa* does not disclose or suggest "receiving at least one response from the conference users, the at least one response including an alternate contact telephone number," as recited by independent claim 17 (emphasis added).

Applicants note that these recitations were incorporated into independent claim 17 from dependent claim 26. In rejecting claim 26, the Final Office Action does not address this recitation of claim 26 (Final Office Action at pages 6 and 7), and therefore does not allege that the cited art teaches or suggests "receiving at least one response from the conference users, the at least one response including an alternate contact telephone number," as recited by independent claim 17.

Independent claims 47, 62, and 64-67, though of different scope from claim 17, recite features similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 17. Claims 47, 62, and 64-67 are therefore allowable for reasons similar to those presented above with regard to claim 17.

Claims 18-29 and 48-59 depend from one of the independent claims, and the dependent claims are therefore allowable at least due to their dependence from allowable base claims.

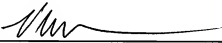
III. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments would place the application in condition for allowance and do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner. In the alternative, the proposed amendments at least place the application in better form for appeal.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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